the collaboration with MIT envisaged active and visible technical support to: (i) make available to the Company the technical knowledge, experience, skill, know-how and processes of MIT's Media Lab to the extent relevant to the Media Lab Asia Programme; and (ii) assist in the development of a technical plan for the Company's research and educational programs.

(d) Media Lab has identified the following kay research initiatives:

- Bits for all: to provide low cost, high bandwidth wireless connectivity.
- World Computer: to develop affordable computing and communication access devices.
- Tomorrow's Tools: to develop sensors and interfaces for rural applications.

Research laboratories at five IITs, namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Chennai and Kharagpur have taken up several projects in these thrust areas. Pilot deployment has been carried out for some of the projects. Notable among these are: deployment of Multi hop wireless network to provide rural connectivity, development of innovative vehicle mounted access points to wireless network, Linux based geographical information system for hand held computers and research on low cost testing tools for deployment in the rural environment.

(e) Government of India has released Rs. 65 crore as Grant-in-Aid to Media Lab Asia. There was no expenditure by other parties.

(f) The projects mentioned at (d) above are at different stages of implementation.

Monsoon Hangama offer of a Private Operator

1930. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India has complained to DoT on the fraudulent intentions of Monsoon Hangama Offer of a Private operator to deceive the subscriber with misleading features of the scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the COAI fears that the Monsoon Hangama Offer might influence the forthcoming decision of TDS Appellate Tribunal on the legality of WLL Mobility Services; and

(d) whether the operator owes to the DoT staggering sum of Rs. 9000 crore as unpaid licence fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has complained against Monsoon Hangama Offer of Private operator COAI has expressed fears that the Monsoon Hangama Offer may influence the forthcoming decision of Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

(d) No, Sir.

Disrupted Telecommunication system in Ranchi

†1931. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to negligence of the officers of Telecommunication Department, the communication system of Dakra (Ranchi) generally remains disrupted;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the telephones of many Central Educational Institutions are also lying out of order since the last six months due to non-presence of officers/employees at the headquarters;

(c) by when the faulty telephones would be rectified; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by Government against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No. Sir. Communication system at Dakra is quite satisfactory.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.